

## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET



SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Abidjan Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

August 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

C/Ops

26/88

KAS [Signature]

2.

3.

C/E&amp;PS

h

4.

DD/FBIS

27/88

B

5.

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11.

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12.

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m

[Signature]

15.

Exec. Reg.

FORM 1-79

610

USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

FBIS

MBA-2616-88

6 September 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS  
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Abidjan Bureau--August 1988

## I. GENERAL

1. The Embassy has now recommended to the State Department that the FBIS Abidjan bureau chief automatically be given diplomatic status by virtue of the position. FBIS Headquarters is now coordinating this issue with the Department.

2. The Ivorian Foreign Affairs Ministry has formally requested that a ponyline be established so that it can receive certain FBIS materials electronically. This idea had been raised a number of times over the last few years, but until now the Foreign Ministry had elected not to pursue it. FBIS Headquarters has approved the line in principal. The bureau will now work out the details. Ambassador Dennis Kux strongly endorsed the idea, calling it a "very positive" development.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The fifth round of U.S.-brokered peace talks among representatives from Angola, Cuba, and South Africa was held 24-26 August in Brazzaville, Congo. Congolese electronic media are currently unmonitorable at Abidjan Bureau, so by prior arrangement on the 21st, coverage of the talks was shared with Swaziland Bureau, with Abidjan covering reports from AFP, PANA, Libreville Africa No. 1, and BBC.

2. Two summit meetings were held in Cotonou, Benin, early this month: the presidents of the proprietary countries of Air Afrique voted to depoliticize and streamline the West African regional airline; and leaders of the member countries of the West African Monetary Union (UMOA) agreed to try to reduce capital outflow. The bureau filed several items on each meeting.

### B. Communications

The bureau's back-up communications line to the Embassy (a direct phone line to the chancery) for reasons still unknown was cut or removed by the PTT some 2 months ago. The bureau, working with Embassy staff, is attempting to get this line reconnected. Until this is accomplished, the bureau's only commo backstop is via IDD. The situation regarding the Embassy phones is similar. It is having many "problems" keeping its phones activated and connected. Another example of the situation is that the Embassy, using its "influence," might be able to get new lines installed in some 3-5 months or more. But as a local bard commented at a recent country-team meeting, without this "influence," it could take a year or more! The bureau this month applied for two new phone lines. (1)

### C. Lateral Services

Vincent Farley, the U.S. charge in Abidjan, was keenly interested in reports on the Angola talks. Twice a day, the bureau sent copies of pertinent incoming and outgoing items to him either at the Embassy or at his residence. He was most appreciative and said he hand carried most of the items to the Ivorian foreign minister. Ambassador Kux returned to post on the 30th and the bureau is continuing this service.

### D. Cruising

Bureau monitors cooperated on the 29th to compile cruising observations of Niamey (Niger) Domestic Service. Monitors noted several previously unobserved newscasts, which will be evaluated for content and monitorability.

### E. Technical

1. A headquarters electrical consultant visited the bureau TDY to conduct a general survey and make recommendations as to how to solve pressing electrical problems.

2. FED staffers [ ] TDY'ed at the bureau to receive field training prior to their upcoming PCS field assignments. In addition to the training, they also participated in a major rewiring project on the Bureau's radio and printer racks. STAT

3. The bureau engineer is completing the annual -- and exhaustive -- property accounting inventory to complete the annual dollar value report due in early September.

## III. ADMINISTRATIVE

Bureau Chief [ ] arrived on the 13th from Tel Aviv on a direct PCS transfer. STAT

V. VISITS

1. FED trainees [ ] TDY to the bureau 6-25th.

STAT

2. Contractor [ ] TDY to the bureau 6-11th to conduct an electrical survey.

STAT

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

[ ] hosted a welcome dinner party on the 20th for [ ], the new bureau chief. Among the guests were the Charge and other senior Embassy officials, as well as a full contingent of bureau personnel.

STAT

STAT

[ ]  
Chief, FBIS Abidjan Bureau

STAT

cc: C/MB  
AC/LD